

WILLIAM R. SECK, SUPERINTENDENT

KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

May 26, 2005

## Dear Homeland Security Partners:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the state's intention to regionalize its homeland security efforts. To date, funds received by Kansas through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and subject to the local jurisdiction pass through requirement, have been provided directly to our counties. It is probable that an incident of terrorism will quickly consume the resources of an individual county. For this reason, it is imperative that we develop a regional response capable of bringing successful resolution to such an event.

The State of Kansas has benefited tremendously as a result of funds received through the HSGP. Since funding became available from the HSGP in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999, our state has received the following allocations:

FFY 1999:	FFY 2000:	FFY 2001:	FFY 2002:
\$670,000	\$807,000	\$844,000	\$4,151,000
FFY 2003 Part I:	FFY 2003 Part II:	FFY 2004:	FFY 2005:
\$7,401,000	\$19,603,000	\$28,842,000	\$21,784,092

To date, \$84,102,092 has been awarded to Kansas for the purpose of improving our capability to detect, prevent, and respond to an incident of terrorism. Based upon the historical allocations, as indicated above, the peak in this funding occurred in FFY 2004. In FFY 2005, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant programs were a part of the total Kansas allocation. However, even with the addition of these two programs and their

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associated funding, the state's allocation was cut more than \$7,000,000 from the previous year. If the President's FFY 2006 budget recommendation is approved by Congress, that year's allocation to Kansas will be even less.

From FFY 1999-2005, 0.75 percent of the total amount set aside for the HSGP went to each state. The balance of the funds was then distributed to states on a population share basis. As proposed in FFY 2006, states would receive 0.25 percent (a reduction of 0.50 percent) of the total federal allocation for the HSGP and the balance of funds would be distributed based upon threats and vulnerabilities identified in each specific state.

Fortunately, the vast majority of our jurisdictions have been able to acquire the baseline equipment necessary to protect first responders and enable a basic response to an act of terrorism. It is, however, clear that terrorism involving a weapon of mass destruction, will require a **regional** response to resolve. It is also clear that our state's funding will continue to diminish in future years. For these reasons, it is imperative that we begin to shift our focus toward the development of a regional response capability. Beginning with our FFY 2006 HSGP allocation (available early next year), a significant portion of the 80% in funds required to be passed through to local jurisdictions will be awarded with a requirement that they be used for the purpose of regionalizing.

It is anticipated that councils will be formed within each of the state's, seven existing Homeland Security Regions. Councils across the state will be consistent from a membership standpoint and will include various response disciplines and other individuals as appropriate. These councils will be charged with identifying the needs of respective regions based upon threats and vulnerabilities. We will provide more guidance regarding the composition of the councils as more discussions are held on this issue. We also intend to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, in making the transition into regionalization.

Developing regional response capabilities and councils is a significant shift from our past practice of providing for the needs of individual jurisdictions. Obviously, much discussion and many decisions remain to be made in this regard. We just wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some general information regarding the state's intent to enhance its security through a regional approach. More details will follow as they become available.

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Governor's Council on Homeland Se	curity:
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